

Financial Analyst

Read the numbers behind a company or a deal and tell people what they mean. A degree, then years of exams.

TYPICAL PAY

\$90,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$59k to \$151k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 7 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Banks, corporate finance teams,
investment firms, government**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Math, accounting, business and economics. Grades matter because commerce programs are competitive.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Commerce, finance, economics or accounting. Co-op programs at Waterloo, Laurier and Toronto Metropolitan University place you in banks before you graduate.
- 3 First job** 1 to 2 years
Junior analyst, a bank rotational program, or an accounting role. Most people start in corporate finance or at a bank, not on a trading floor.
- 4 CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) program** 3 to 4 years
Three exams, about 300 hours of study each, written while you work. The charter also needs 4,000 hours of investment-related work over at least 36 months.
- 5 Senior analyst or manager** After 5 to 8 years
Lead models and reports, present to executives, or move into portfolio management.

Pros and cons

- + Strong pay by your late twenties
- + Skills that transfer to any industry
- + Clear ladder: analyst, senior, manager, director
- Exams for years after you graduate
- Month-end and quarter-end crunches
- Junior work can be repetitive spreadsheet grinding

Good to know

The CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) exams fail most people

Pass rates on a given level are often under 50%, and each level takes about 300 hours of study. Finishing all three usually takes 3 to 4 years. That is why the charter is worth so much.

Bay Street is Canada's Wall Street

The head offices of Canada's biggest banks sit within a few blocks of each other in downtown Toronto. A large share of the country's finance jobs are there, with Calgary second for energy finance and M...

Optional boosts

CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) charter. CPA (Chartered Professional Accountant). FRM (Financial Risk Manager). CBV (Chartered Business Valuator).

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Financial analyst, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Job Bank: Financial analyst, employment requirements
CFA Institute: CFA Program
Rotman Commerce, University of Toronto

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/financial-analyst>



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